

Claims

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A method for removing metal compounds comprising copper metal compounds from waste water comprising the steps of:

- (a) adjusting the pH of the waste water to from about 5 to about 12;
- (b) aerating the waste water;
- (c) agitating the waste water, where steps (a), (b) and (c) are carried out simultaneously in a reaction tank and waste water is aerated in said reaction tank to provide a dissolved oxygen concentration ~~at of~~ from about 0.01 lb./hr. to about 70 lb./hr. at a waste water input ~~flow~~ flow rate of from about 50 gal./min. to about 500 gal./min. for a metals concentration of from about 50 mg./L to about 1,000 mg./L;
- (d) then adding a flocculating agent polymer selected from a group consisting of cationic and anionic polymers to the water and allowing floccules including said metal compounds to form; ~~and~~
- (e) then separating said floccules including said metal compounds from the water ~~by~~ means of a clarifier and adding additional flocculating agent polymer to said separated metal compounds; and
- (f) then further dewatering the floccules separated in step (e).

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 7 wherein after the addition of the additional flocculating agent polymer, the flocculated metal compound is dewatered in step (f) in a belt filter press.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein there is water which is removed in step (f) and said water removed in step (f) is removed to a polishing pond.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 7 wherein in step (e) separation is conducted by means of sequential treatment in a the clarifier and a rotary drum thickener.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein additional flocculating agent polymer is added after the clarifier and then again after the rotary drum thickener.

18. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein after the additional flocculating agent polymer, the flocculated metal compound is dewatered in step (f) in a belt filter press.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein there is water removed in step (f) and said water removed in step (f) is removed to a polishing pond.

20. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein water removed in step (f) is removed to a settling pond.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein in step (a) the pH is adjusted to from about 6 to about 9.